

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

Is it not obvious that concentrating media control in the hands of a few powerful conglomerates is having an undesirable effect on the quality of life here in the US? I sometimes feel like arguing stuff like this is like trying to convince the EPA that air pollution is bad for you -- it seems obvious to me, but not to them!

It has already gotten to the point that I have to get my news from either foreign news sources (newspapers/radio) or Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" if I want a reasonably accurate approximation of what's really going on. The continued concentration of power is going to do to television what the concentration of marketing efforts has done to popular music and radio -- reduced it down to about half a dozen "choices," all of which suck badly and sound remarkably similar to one another.

In my town, a college station recently had to fight off an attempt by the NPR station to take over its content and stamp out its diverse and eclectic music format. Had the NPR people won out (and it was a VERY close call), there would simply be NO OTHER OUTLET AT ALL for this kind of programming, and no reasonable way (other than illegal pirate radio) for it to be made available by anyone else!

This is not what we want for our town, and I can't imagine that this is what you want for this country. I urge you to not just *support* diversification, but to *actively encourage* it.